Today is the first day of the new agreement on Russian military transit to and from the Kaliningrad region. The Lithuanian Ministry of Defense has a new Transportation Service Department tasked with overeeing the transport. In certain cities such as Kybartai and Kena, the railroad cars will be searched. Lithuanian guards will lead the transport convoys.

Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius presented a plan to the Seimas this week to allow Lithuanian soldiers to remain in Croatia under the direction of the United Nations. Food, transportation and weapons are being supplied by the Netherlands. Lithuania is providing money for wages with the understanding that the UN will reimburse these expenses. NATO is reported to be very satisfied with the performance of the Lithuanian peacekeepers, which should be a positive first step towards Lithuanian membership in the alliance. Peacekeepers in the LITPLA-2 contingent will deploy in Croatia in February.

Lithuania's immigration department has rejeted a plea by JEDINSTVO leader Valerius Ivanovas. Ivanovas was imprisioned for his role in the January 13th anti-Lithuanian uprising.

Sweden is once again expressing concerns about the atomic energy plant at Ignalina. The Swedish weekly *Dagens Industri* reports that Ignalina is the largest, oldest and most dangerous atomic reactor in the world. Located only 500 kilometers from the Swedish border, Ignalina has already received 160 (million) Kron for improvements at the station. Foreign nuclear experts maintain that eventually Baltarusia and Latvia should join Lithuania in running the Ignalina plant.

After the recent railroad bridge explosion on Lithuania's Vilnius-Kaunas line, President Algirdas Brazauskas presented medals and gifts to several persons who warned approaching trains about the damaged track. Two women received telephones, Soviet style - they don't work. Perhaps with a phone like that, the two women will get a call from Vladimir Lenin.

Amidst cold temperatures and snow, Christmas was celebrated in Vilnius at the Carnival. A large Christmas tree was erected in the city square where bands and folk song and dance ensembles performed. A children's puppet theater presented a play entitled "Christmas morning the sun has blossomed.